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**1991/08/23**

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**CONFIDENTIAL**

August 23, 1991

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**PRC/USSR: NO JOY IN BEIJING**

Foreign Minister Qian Qichen told Soviet Ambassador Soloviev yesterday that China respected "the choice of the Soviet people" and reiterated earlier protestations that Beijing never interferes in the internal affairs of other countries, according to *Xinhua*. Chinese media gave only minimal coverage to the final stages of the failed coup.

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